GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1885
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
UNDUE BENEFITS TO SPONSERS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note about CAG observation regardingundue benefits given to sponsors of programmes `Main Dilli Hoon` and `Ek Se Bad Kar Ek` by Director General, Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ordered indepth inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to recover the amount?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Audit has observed that Doordarshan did not apply pro-rata rate in fixing commercial terms for the programme `Main Dilli Hoon` and did not hike the minimum guarantee of the programme `Ek Se Bad Kar Ek`.Doordarshan failed to recover the dues from the producer of `Ek Se Bad Kar Ek`.

(c), (d) & (e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the decisions in both the cases were taken by Doordarshan keeping in view the commercial interest of Doordarshan and also to retain good programmes on its channels. Doordarshan has not accepted the contents of the Audit Para.

(f) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan has filed a case in the HighCourt of Delhi for recovery of the outstanding dues from the producers of `Ek Se Bad Kar Ek`